

From: Ken Buchanan
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2005 12:38 PM
To: Dabbs, Paul
Subject: Water Plan Update

Dear Mr. Dabbs

I am encouraged to read that the new Water Plan Update emphasizes water use efficiency, recycling and groundwater treatment. In fact, I understand that the Update models a “less resource intensive” water management scenario that shows that Californians can use less water by 2030 than we do today – *if we make the right decisions*.

However, despite its positive emphasis on water use efficiency, recycling, and groundwater treatment, the Update still proposes some future reliance on building new and raising existing dams under the CALFED program. In addition, a host of local but nevertheless destructive dam projects could be hidden in the Update’s proposal to encourage the development of “Integrated Regional Water Management Plans.”

The Update’s inclusion of CALFED storage projects is particularly troubling, since virtually all of these projects threaten the environment and will cost the taxpayers millions of dollars while producing relatively little additional water supplies. The Update even acknowledges this by noting that CALFED surface storage projects will produce less reliable water than any other management option, including cloud seeding to increase rain!

In view of the above, I want you to know that I, as a tax payer and a friend of our environment:

- *oppose the Update’s inclusion of CALFED* and local surface storage projects, including the proposed raise of Shasta Dam, the Sites Offstream Storage Reservoir, enlargement of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir, and the proposed Temperance Flat Dam on the San Joaquin River. These projects will produce little water at a high public cost and harm the environment.
- *believe that California doesn’t need any new or raised dams*. California has already increased water storage by 6 million acre feet in the last 15 years through groundwater programs and the construction of two offstream storage reservoirs (Diamond Valley and Los Vaqueros). More than 1,400 dams choke our rivers. Certainly, no more additional surface storage is needed.
- *believe that we can more than meet our water needs without dams*. A recent report published by the Planning and Conservation League (Investment Strategy for California Water) found that additional investments in ground water treatment and desalinization, water recycling, and urban and agricultural water use efficiency can increase the water available to Californians by nearly 4.7 million acre feet.

- *believe that the Update should reduce stresses on declining Bay Delta Estuary ecosystem.* Given the recent precipitous decline in Bay Delta fisheries and water quality, no Update scenario should assume an increase in Delta water exports.
- *believe that all Californians deserve clean and affordable water.* Urge that the Update strengthen the recommendation to ensure that all Californians, including low income communities and communities of color, have access to clean, reliable and affordable water for drinking, recreation, and fish consumption.
- *believe that we should prepare for the impacts of global climate change.* The state should prepare for the impacts of global climate change on water supplies, water use, and land use by increasing the floodway capacity of our rivers, setting back levees, improving the operations of existing dams, and discouraging development in dangerous floodplains

Thank you for your kind attention and the great work that your agency has done so far.

Ken Buchanan